

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 22578 221511Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
IO-13 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
DLOS-09 OES-07 /097 W
-----125850 221518Z /45

O 221456Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3329
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 22578

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS EG DJ
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN CONCERNS RE DJIBOUTI SITUATION

REFL (A) CAIRO 22226, (B) STATE 303983

1. SINCE AMBASSADOR HAD TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT IN ISMAILIA DEC 22 AND WAS UNABLE TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH ACTING FONMIN BOUTROS GHALI, POLCOUNS CALLED ON DIRECTOR MFA AFRICAN DEPARTMENT AHMED SIDQI TO CONVEY DEPARTMENT VIEW ON SITUATION IN DJIBOUTI. SIDQI SAID THAT GOE MISSION TO DJIBOUTI, OF WHICH HE EXPECTS TO BE MEMBER, IS AWAITING GREEN LIGHT FROM GOULED. SIDQI LISTENED CAREFULLY TO POINTS CONTAINED REF (B) AND SAID HE AGREED WITH MOST OF THEM. HE COULD NOT, HOWEVER, AGREE WITH SOME OF THEM.

2. SIDQI SAID GOE HAS TAKEN INITIATIVE OF SENDING A MISSION BECAUSE WHILE ALARMED BY SITUATION IT BELIEVES IT IS NOT BEYOND REPAIR. HE AGREES WITH U.S. THAT SUR-
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VIVAL OF DJIBOUTI DEPENDS ON HARMONY BETWEEN AFARS AND ISSAS AND THAT GOULED NEEDS THE AFARS. HE CONSIDERS IT A HOPEFUL SIGN THAT PRIME MINISTER AND THREE MINISTERS HAVE NOT YET HAD THEIR RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED. GOE IS, THROUGH ITS AMBASSADOR, IN CONTACT WITH GOULED AND AHMAD DINI. LATTER THEY CONSIDER A MODERATE WHO IS READY FOR RECONCILIATION. GOE GIVES AHMAD DINI CREDIT FOR KEEP-

ING AFARS IN LINE DISPUTE MEDDLING OF BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA.

3. SIDQI SAID IMPLICATION IN U.S. POSITION WAS THAT SOMALIA HAD BEEN INTERFERING MORE THAN ETHIOPIA AND THAT DOWNWARD TREND IN ETHIOPIAN-DJIBOUTI RELATIONS RESULTED FROM THEM. SIDQI COULD NOT ACCEPT THIS VIEW SAYING THAT ETHIOPIAN INTERFERENCE WAS AT LEAST AS GREAT AS SOMALIA'S. IN ANY CASE HE SAID GOE MISSION COULD NOT BE AN ADVOCATE FOR ETHIOPIA FOR THIS REASON. BE BELIEVED ETHIOPIA'S DESIGN IS EVENTUALLY TO CREATE AN AFAR STATE TO ASSURE THEM ACCESS TO THE SEA SINCE THEY ARE EXPECTING TO LOSE ERITREA SOON.

4. SIDQI SAID THE TWO PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES OF AN EGYPTIAN MISSION TO DJIBOUTI WOULD BE (A) TO CONVINCE GOULED NOT TO FALL INTO TRAP OF GIVING IMPRESSION THAT HE IS PRO-SOMALI. INSTEAD HE SHOULD CONTINUE TO ACT AS A NATIONAL LEADER AND NOT ALLOW RESIGNATIONS TO PUSH HIM INTO TAKING POSITION AGAINST MPL; AND (B) TO BACK FRENCH MILITARY ACTION IN CASE OF CONFRONTATION. SIDQI SAID GOE HAS ALREADY CONTACTED FRENCH AND TOLD THEM IF SITUATION GETS WORSE, FRANCE SHOULD ASSUME ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND NOT BE SHY. HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT THE SOME 3,000 FRENCH TROOPS IN DJIBOUTI COULD DEAL WITH THE SITUATION AND SAID THAT GOE WOULD PUBLICLY BACK FRANCE. EILTS
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